the World Bank for the production of natural gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The World bank has sanctioned loans of US $ 139.3 million for the South Bassein Development Gas Project, US $ 283.25 million for the Western Gas Development Project and US $ 450 million for the Gas Flaring Reduction Project.

Coal Reserves in North Eastern Region

*764 SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited has identified coal reserves in the North Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the category of coal found in the region; and

(d) the utilisation programmes proposed for these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes 'Regional Exploration' for the purpose of identification of coal reserves in the country. GSI has assessed a coal reserve of 864.78 million tonnes as on 1/1/91 in the North Eastern Region. The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited' (CMPDIL) undertake 'Detailed Exploration' for proving of coal reserves for the purpose of mine planning. The Category-wise coal reserves as on 1/1/91 in the North Eastern Region are:

Proved Category	257.03 million tonnes
Indicated Category	149.29 million tonnes
Inferred Category	458.46 million tonnes
Total :	864.78 million tonnes

(d) The production of coal in the North Eastern Coalfields was 6.79 lakh tonnes during the year 1990-91. The targets of coal production for the years 1991-92 and 1994-95 has been fixed as 6.80 and 9.00 lakh tonnes respectively which will meet existing demand of the industries such as cement, paper, bricks, and other industries of the region. Some quantity of coal from Margherita area of Coal India Limited, are supplied to steel plants for blending purposes.

Late Arrival of Domestic Flights

*765. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all domestic flights are invariably delayed; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The punctuality of the operations is being closely monitored and timely remedial steps are taken to improve the on-time performance of the airlines. However, there are factors beyond the control of the airlines which often affect the punctuality of their operations. As a result of the steps taken, the punctuality rate of Indian Airlines has improved from an average of

about 52% in June, 1991 to about 75% in August, 1991.

Tourism Development in Tamil Nadu

*766 SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sites selected by the India Tourism Development Corporation during the last five years in Tamil Nadu for promotion of tourism; and

(b) the progress made so far in the development of these sites?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The ITDC had identified the following two sites for setting up a hotel in Madras either on its own or as a joint venture project in collaboration with the State Tourism Development Corporation.

In February, 89

A site measuring about 3 acres located 4 kms away from the Secretariat on the way to Airport.

For want of agreement on the joint venture terms with the State Tourism Development Corporation no progress could be made in the matter.

In April, 91

A site measuring about 3 acres located at Valluver, Kottam on Koddam Bhakkam Road.

ITDC has approached the Government of Tamil Nadu for allotment of the site for setting up a hotel either by ITDC its own scheme or as a joining venture project with the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Express Train from Patna to Delhi

*767 SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new direct express train from Patna to Delhi via Allahabad and Kanpur in view of density of passenger traffic on this route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Purchase of Aircraft for Vayudoot

*768. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the aircraft proposed to be purchased for the Vayudoot, indicating their capacity, cost and other salient features; and

(b) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present, Vayudoot has no plans to purchase new aircraft.

(b) Does not arise.